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1891
vol.2

SIMPLE



BIBLE

NO. 2.

STORIES



PUBLISHED BY

GEORGE Q. CANNON & SONS COMPANY,
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

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SIMPLE BIBLE STORIES.

NO. 2.

ILLUSTRATED.

(By E. F. FARR.)

*ADAPTED TO THE CAPACITY OF YOUNG CHILDREN, AND
DESIGNED FOR USE IN SABBATH SCHOOLS,
PRIMARY ASSOCIATIONS, AND FOR
HOME READING.*

GEORGE Q. CANNON & SONS CO., PUBLISHERS,
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PREFACE.

THIS little volume follows the book of SIMPLE BIBLE STORIES NO. 1. With this the stories of the Old Testament are completed as far as it is the intention in this series. Several narratives which are contained in the Bible have been omitted here, as young children would not be able to retain in their memory so many of them in their proper order. While we have selected the most pleasing and instructive parts of the Bible for these stories, it has also been the aim to connect the stories in such a way that children who learn them can get an idea of the history contained in the Old Testament, or as much of it as their young minds can comprehend, and enough to awaken within them an interest in the scriptures, so that they will study them more thoroughly when they grow older.

What was suggested in the Preface to SIMPLE BIBLE STORIES No. 1, in regard to the method of teaching these stories, will also apply to the narratives in this volume.

Some of the stories in this volume are rather lengthy. On this account they have been divided into two parts. These parts, it will be noticed, are separated by a dash line. Each part is complete enough to make a lesson, and is quite sufficient for one meeting.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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SIMPLE BIBLE STORIES.

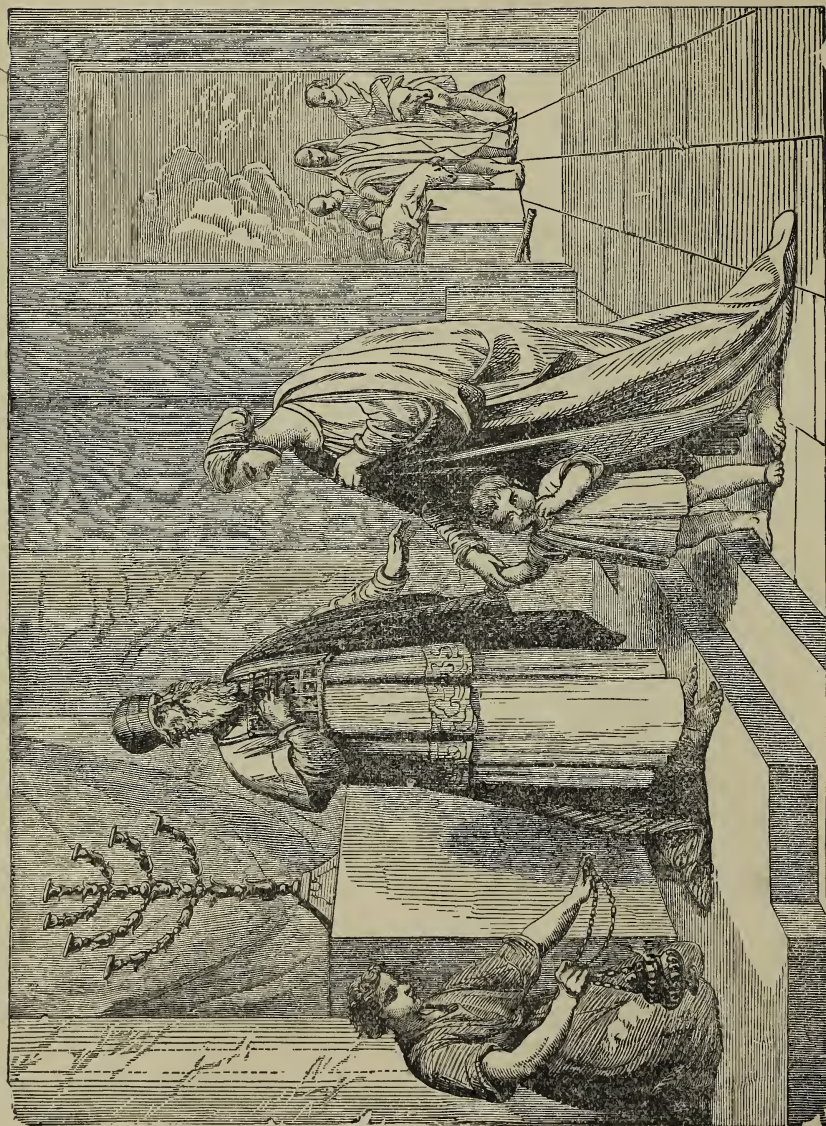
STORY OF SAMUEL.

A LONG time after the death of Moses, and after the Israelites had come to the land of promise, or Canaan, there lived among them a man by the name of Elkanah. This man had two wives. One of these wives, whose name was Hannah, had no children. On this account, one time when she went with her husband to the house of the Lord to worship, she prayed to the Lord to give her a son. She promised if the Lord would answer her prayer she would give her son to Him to work in His service in the temple.

The Lord answered her prayer and she, true to her promise, took her little son, when he was old enough, to the temple of the Lord and left him there to work or perform duties therein.

The priest who was then performing these duties in the temple was named Eli. So when Samuel was brought there he lived with Eli in the temple.

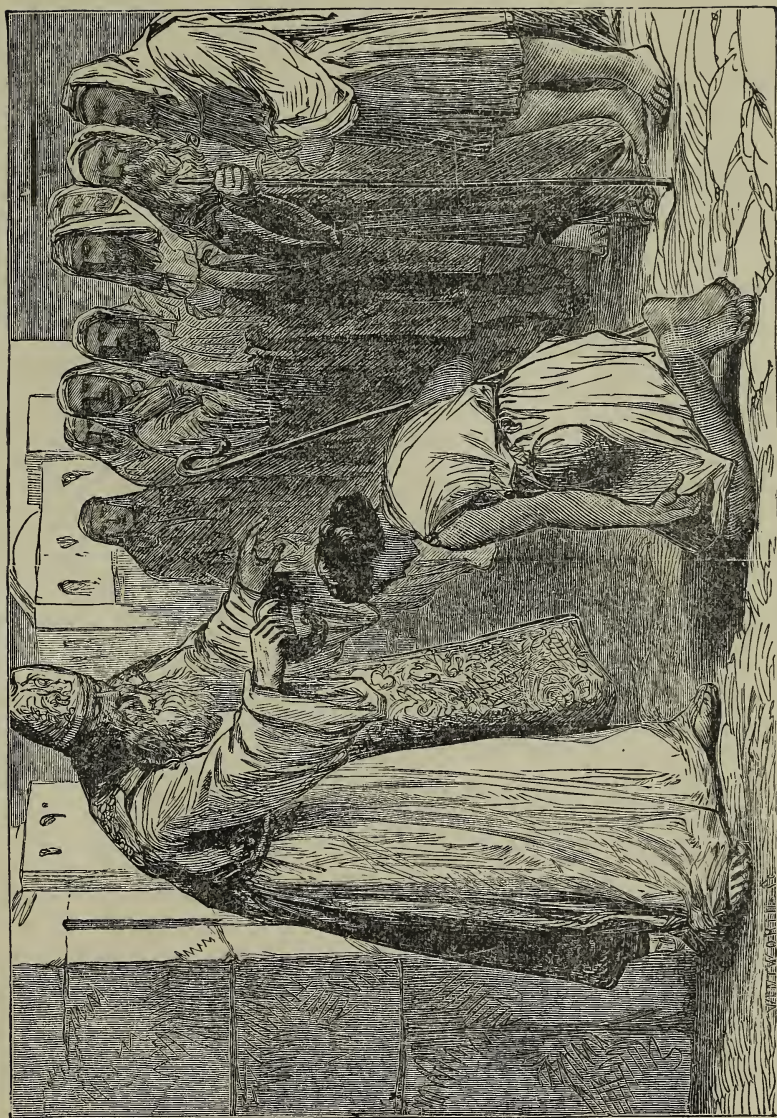
One night, when Samuel was still quite young, he went to bed to sleep. Soon he heard a voice call him by name. Thinking it was Eli, he went to him and asked what was wanted. Eli told him he did not call and sent him to his bed again. Once more Samuel heard a voice call him. He went to Eli the priest again to inquire what was wanted. But Eli had not called him. The voice was heard again the third time. When Samuel came this time to Eli he was told that



HANNAH BRINGING SAMUEL TO ELI, THE PRIEST.

it must be the Lord who called him, and if he heard the voice again to answer the Lord.

When Samuel went back to bed he heard his name called



SAMUEL ANOINTING DAVID TO BE KING.

as before. Then he answered, and asked the Lord to speak to him. The voice was that of the Lord. He told Samuel what He was about to do.

From this time Samuel became known among the people as

a prophet. He was a good young man, and the Lord spoke to him and told him many things.

After Eli's death, Samuel took his place in the temple.

In those days the children of Israel had wars quite often with the peoples that lived near by. For twenty years the enemies of the Israelites seemed to have the advantage of them, or have power over them. Samuel then called upon the Israelites to repent of their sins, that is, to stop sinning, and prayed to the Lord to protect them from their enemies. He also offered a sacrifice to the Lord.

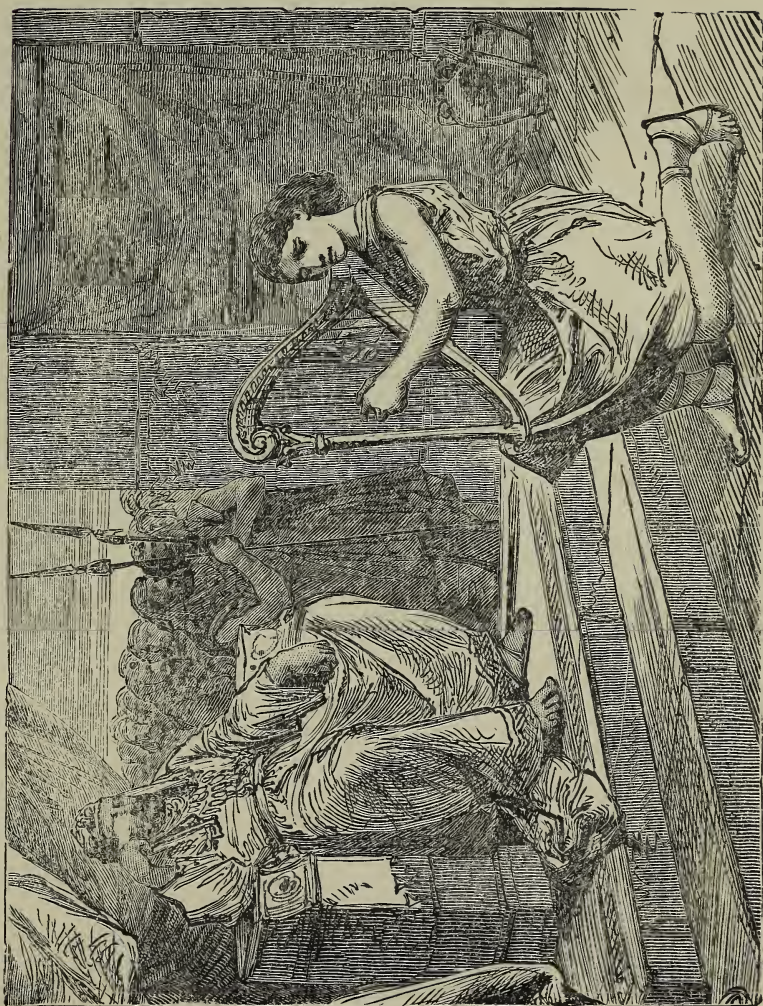
His prayer for the people was answered. The Lord drove back the enemies of the Israelites, who were coming upon them, by causing loud thunder to sound over their heads.

Samuel had been for many years a judge among the Israelites. It was by the judges they were ruled or governed. But when he became old they asked him to anoint some one to be their king, so they would be like other people. This displeased Samuel. The Lord was also displeased with them, but as they requested it, He told Samuel to anoint a man to be their king. The one selected was a tall young man named Saul. After ruling as king a few years, it was found that Saul was not obedient to the will of God, as told him by Samuel the prophet. For his disobedience the Lord rejected him, and told Samuel to anoint another to be the ruler or king of the people.

Samuel found a young man named David, whom he anointed to be king in the place of Saul.

As David became a great man, more will be told about him in the next story.

Samuel died about three years after David was anointed king.



DAVID PLAYING BEFORE SAUL.

STORY OF DAVID.

WHEN David was anointed by Samuel to be king of the Israelites he was but a boy, and kept his father's sheep. After he was anointed the Spirit of the Lord rested upon him. But this Spirit left Saul, and an evil spirit

troubled him. On this account Saul was advised or told to get some person to play the harp before him and drive from him his unhappy feelings with sweet music.

One of his servants said David was a good player upon the harp, and he was sent for and played before Saul. Saul was pleased with him and asked his father to let him remain in his service.

At this time a people called the Philistines were at war with the Israelites. Among the Philistines was a great giant



DAVID SLAYING A LION.

named Goliath. He would come out from the camp and defy or dare anyone to come from among the army of Saul to fight with him. He told them if the man they sent out killed him, the Philistines would be servants to the Israelites. But if he killed the man from the Israelite army then they should be servants to the Philistines.

One day David was sent by his father to the camp of Saul's army on an errand to his brothers who were there. While



DAVID MEETING THE GIANT.

there he saw this man Goliath come before them to dare one of their number to fight with him.

David had such faith that the Lord would be with him that he offered to go and fight the giant.

Saul heard of this and sent for David. He told David that he was not able to go and fight with this giant, as he was but a boy. David then told Saul how he killed a lion and a bear that came to take his lambs as he was herding sheep for



DAVID CARRYING THE HEAD OF THE GIANT TO SAUL.

his father. The Lord, he said, would protect him now as He did when he fought with the lion.

Saul then felt assured that the Lord was with David, and told him to go and fight the Philistine. He also gave him

armor to wear and a sword; but David said he could not go with those things as he was not used to them.

All that he took was a staff, such as he carried about when herding, and a sling and five smooth stones. When he went up towards the warrior, the giant sneered at him because he was so young. He said to David: "Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?" Then he cursed him.

David replied by saying: "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand, and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee."

Then, as Goliath was coming nearer towards David, the boy put a stone in his sling and ran towards Goliath. He threw the stone and struck Goliath in the forehead, and Goliath fell to the ground. Then David ran to him, took Goliath's sword and cut off his head with it.

When the army of the Philistines saw that Goliath was killed they ran away.

David took the head of the giant to Saul, the king. Saul was much pleased with David and put him at the head of the army.

But soon Saul became jealous of David, because the people loved David more than they did Saul. For this reason Saul ever afterwards hated David, and tried to take his life. He would follow him up wherever he went, or send his servants after him. But David was blessed with the Spirit of God, and was enabled to keep from Saul.

Though Saul tried to kill him, David did not try to kill Saul. He regarded Saul as the Lord's anointed one, because he had been anointed as king, but had been rejected. Even when he had a chance to kill Saul one time when he found him sleeping, David refused to do so. When Saul found that



SAUL'S LIFE SPARED BY DAVID.

David refused to kill him when he had a chance, he said to David, "Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil." He said, too, that he knew David would be king in his place.

David did indeed become king. For soon after this happened Saul was slain while in battle.

David was a mighty king, and a great warrior. He drove the enemies of the Israelites away, and brought peace among the people, and they again prospered.

Just think how good the young man David was to even refuse to harm a man who tried to take his life! He so loved to do right, and had so much respect for the Lord's chosen servant that he returned to him good for evil, even after the Lord had said He was not pleased with Saul, and had rejected him as the king of His people.

STORY OF SOLOMON.

DAVID had a son named Solomon. When David became old he appointed Solomon to be king in his place.

This man also became a great king. As his father David had so prevailed over the enemies of the Israelites, there were not so many wars in Solomon's time.

Solomon loved the Lord and obeyed his laws, and did as his father David desired he should. The Lord was well pleased with him, and one night appeared to him in a dream. He told Solomon to ask what he most desired of Him, and promised to give to him whatsoever he asked.

Solomon told the Lord what he greatly wished for was wisdom, so that he might know how to act wisely as king. This the Lord felt pleased to bless him with. He told Solomon that as he asked for such a good gift he would give him it. The Lord also said he would bless him with riches and honor.

Solomon, therefore, according to his desire received great wisdom from the Lord. So great was his wisdom that there was no one like him to be found. He also became rich, as the Lord promised he should.

His wisdom soon became known among the people, and it also was heard of among other peoples, and kings and great men from afar came to him to learn wisdom.

Solomon wrote many proverbs, or wise sayings, which are found in the Bible. When you are old enough you should read them, as they will help you to become wise if you learn them. Here are a few of his wise sayings, which you might learn:

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider his ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver.

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.

If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: for thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord will reward thee.

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Soon after Solomon became king he started to build a grand and beautiful temple to the Lord. It took many years to build this temple. It also took a great many men to do the work. It was, perhaps, the nicest and grandest building ever made on the earth.



CUTTING CEDARS FOR BUILDING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

Solomon also built cities and a wall about Jerusalem, the place where the temple was built, a palace to live in, and a beautiful throne on which he sat.



OFFERING A SACRIFICE IN SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

But it happened that Solomon, after being so greatly blessed of the Lord was led away from serving Him. When he became old he turned an idolater, and worshiped idols.

It is perhaps strange to you that this should happen with such a great and good man. But we must remember that we

are all liable to do wrong. We should, therefore, always be prayerful and humble so that we can avoid temptations.

When Solomon turned away from serving the Lord, he was not blessed as before. The Lord let the enemies of the Israelites come and cause them trouble again, and after Solomon's death there was trouble among themselves. The people became wicked, and the Lord was displeased with them. Soon the twelve tribes of Israel, as the people were called, being the children of Jacob's twelve sons, became divided. Two tribes, the children of Judah and Benjamin, remained in Jerusalem, and the other ten tribes went away, as they could not agree to live together.

When Samuel of old was called to prepare
To be Israel's Judge, and the Priesthood to bear,
And to God's chosen people His will to declare,
He was only a boy.

When David a king was anointed to be—
He who caused Israel's foes to fear and to flee,
And who fought many battles his people to free—
He was only a boy.

And Solomon, too, that great and wise man,
The fame of whose glory and wisdom ran
To all nations abroad, when his reign began,
He was only a boy.

Joseph Smith, the great prophet of our day,
When he went to the woods in secret to pray,
And there saw the Lord, who showed him the way,
He was only a boy.

ELIJAH, THE PROPHET.

WHEN the Israelites separated into two parties or nations, one was called the kingdom of Israel and the other the kingdom of Judah. The kingdom of Judah was in the southern part of Canaan, or Palestine, as it is now called, and the kingdom of Israel was in the northern part.

The people of the northern part of the country seem to have become wicked sooner than the other tribes. Their first king was not a good man. He taught the people to worship idols instead of the true God.

About sixty years after the death of Solomon there was a king over Israel named Ahab. He was a wicked king, and his people were following his ways by worshiping idols. They forgot the many great things the Lord had done for them and their forefathers.

While King Ahab lived a prophet by the name of Elijah appeared among his people. The Lord sent Elijah to tell this king what was going to happen on account of the people becoming wicked. He told the king there would be no rain or dew upon the land for some years. This would cause a famine, as the people's crops would not grow without water. The wicked king did not like Elijah for telling of this evil. So the Lord told Elijah to go and hide from the king in a certain place by a brook. Here the Lord promised that he should be fed by birds called ravens; and so he was. The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he drank water from the brook.

As there was no rain, the brook after a while dried up, and Elijah had nothing to drink. But the Lord has many ways of

taking care of those who love him. So He told Elijah to go to a place where he would find a certain widow. There he would be fed by the woman. The prophet went as he was directed by the Lord.



ELIJAH FED BY RAVENS.

He found the widow by the gate of the city gathering wood. When he asked her to get him a drink and some food to eat, she said she had only a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little

oil in a cruse, or bottle, and she was then gathering sticks to make a fire to bake the meal, that she and her son might eat and die. It was the last she had, and there was still a famine or scarcity of food in the land.

This was another trial to Elijah, but his faith in the Lord was very strong. He told the woman to first make him a little cake, and then prepare something for herself and son afterwards. He also promised her that the Lord would cause the meal and oil to last until rain again came upon the land. The woman obeyed the prophet, and what he had said came to pass: the meal and oil lasted until the famine was at an end.

While the prophet lived in the widow's house her son died and she was grieved. She felt to blame Elijah for his death, thinking he, by the power of the Lord which was with him, had caused it. And she asked him if he did it because of her sins. Elijah asked the woman to let him have her son who was dead, and he took the boy to his room and prayed to the Lord to bring him to life again. The boy was, through prayer, restored to life, and the prophet took him to his mother.

In the third year of the drought, or since the last time it had rained, the Lord told Elijah to go to the king, Ahab, again. The famine had been such a great punishment to the people that they were at this time more willing to listen to the prophet and obey his instructions. By afflicting His people is the way the Lord causes them to think of Him and obey His commandments.

Just about the time Elijah was sent to the king the second time, Ahab sent Obadiah, the governor of his house, to look about one part of the country to find water and grass. The king himself was going to search the other part of the country for the same purpose, as he was afraid all his horses would die.

While Obadiah was on this journey he met the prophet Elijah. Obadiah, who was a good man, knew Elijah. The prophet told Obadiah to go and tell the king where he was.



ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW.

At first he was afraid to go. He knew the king had searched throughout the country for Elijah, and had been told that he could not be found. To tell the king now where he was Obadiah thought would make the king believe he had been deceived, and would slay him for not telling before. Elijah promised he would be safe in telling the king, and Obadiah obeyed.

When the prophet met Ahab, the king, he told him he was the one who caused the trouble to come over Israel, as he had forsaken the Lord and turned to worship Baal. Baal was the name of the idol the people worshiped. Ahab then sent to all the people and had them gathered at a place named Mount Carmel. Here Elijah was to show before their eyes who was the true God, and convince them of their error in worshiping idols. This he did in a very wonderful way by the power of the Lord.

The people who worshiped Baal had hundreds of men whom they called prophets. Elijah told the people that these prophets should select a steer or bullock and place it upon wood, but put no fire under it. He would do the same with another bullock, and then each should pray. The prophets of Baal should pray to their idol, and he would pray to the true God. If Baal would answer their prayers by sending fire to burn the bullock offered as a sacrifice to him, then the people might worship him; but if the offering made by Elijah was the one which should be consumed with fire, then the people were to serve the Lord of heaven.

The people all agreed to this offer, and the plan was proceeded with.

The prophets of Baal put their bullock on the altar of wood and then prayed from morning until noon. But no answer was received to their prayers. No fire came to burn the sacrifice.

Then Elijah began to make fun of them. He told them to

shout loud, for perhaps, he said, their god was talking, or had gone on a journey, or was sleeping and needed to be awakened.

For some time longer the prophets of Baal continued to pray, but they failed to bring fire upon the sacrifice.

Towards evening Elijah prepared his sacrifice upon the



ELIJAH MEETING KING AHAB.

altar. He then told the people to empty four barrels of water upon the altar and upon the wood. This he told them to do three times. They did this, and the water ran about the altar and filled the trench which surrounded it. The prophet then prayed to the Lord, saying, "Let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord,

hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again."

After this prayer was offered, fire from the Lord fell upon the sacrifice and burned it, as well as the wood, the stones and the dust about it, and dried up the water in the trench.

When the people saw this they fell upon their faces and said, "The Lord, He is the God; the Lord, He is the God."

The prophet then ordered that the prophets of Baal, who had deceived the people, be gathered together, and he slew them all. Soon afterwards the sky became clouded and rain again fell upon the earth.

One might think that Elijah would now be honored among the people, but the Lord's servants in all ages are persecuted, and it was so with Elijah. The king's wife belonged to a nation of idolaters, and when she heard what the prophet had done she sent word to him that she would have him put to death the next day. Elijah had to flee again to save his life.

The Bible tells many other wonderful things about this great prophet. When he went to hide this last time he was fed by an angel from heaven. At another time, while he was upon a hill, the king sent men to bring the prophet to him. Elijah had prophesied that the king would die, and no doubt the king wished to kill him for doing so. But Elijah, by his great faith, called fire down from heaven, which consumed the men who were going to take him. By his faith, also, he caused at another time the waters of the Jordan river to divide so that he might cross on dry land, just as the Israelites did in the time of Joshua.

At last this prophet was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire by a great whirlwind, and was seen no more among the people.

Elijah appeared to Joseph Smith, in the Kirtland temple, in fulfillment of a prediction made by Malachi, an ancient prophet.

The story of his life shows what great things a man can do who has faith in the Lord.

Who was he who warned Ahab, the king, to turn 'way
From worshipping idols, the Lord to obey?
Who was he during famine by ravens was fed?
Who was he who the widow's son raised from the dead?
Who was he who mocked the false prophets of Baal,
When they called on their gods to send fire, and did fail?
And who then made an offering to God on high,
Which He pleased to accept, and sent fire from the sky?
Who was he who called fire from heaven on his foes;
And to heaven in a fiery chariot rose?
'Twas the prophet Elijah, that great man of God,
Who through life, e'er in paths of righteousness trod.

STORY OF ELISHA.

ELISHA lived at the same time as Elijah the prophet. Just before Elijah was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire, Elisha followed him wherever he went.

At last Elijah asked Elisha what he desired of him before he left. Elisha asked that a double portion of his spirit might rest upon him. That is, that the Spirit of the Lord which was with Elijah might attend him, that by its power he might do the things which Elijah did. So when Elijah was gone Elisha felt that the Spirit of the Lord was with him, and he did many wonderful things.

Just after Elijah left him he took the mantle which that prophet left with him, and smote or struck the waters of the Jordan river. This caused the waters to divide, so he could go to the other side.

At a certain place the water from the spring was impure. It was not good to drink nor to water the land with; but Elisha, by the power of the Lord, made the water pure.



ELISHA PARTING THE JORDAN RIVER.

While this prophet was going to a certain city some children came out and mocked him; that is, they made fun of him, by calling out to him, saying, "Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head."

Elisha turned back and looked at them, and then cursed



ELISHA CAUSES AN AX TO FLOAT.



NAAMAN OFFERING PRESENTS TO ELISHA.

them for treating him in this way. Then there came out of the woods two bears and killed forty-two of these children.

Just think what an awful punishment this was for mocking the servant of the Lord! This should teach us to always treat the Lord's servants with respect, and to not make

fun of people on account of their age or for any other reason.

Elisha performed some miracles that were like those done by Elijah. He caused a poor widow's pot of oil to increase so that she had enough of it to pay her debts, and also to keep her children. At another time he raised to life a child that had died. Again, while some men were cutting down trees with which to build a house, one of them happened to lose the head of his ax in the river. The ax was a borrowed one, and the man felt sorry to lose it. Elisha asked where it fell into the water, and when he was shown the place he threw a stick into the water, and the ax rose to the surface and floated. The man could then see where it was and got it out.

Upon one occasion a man named Naaman came to Elisha to be healed of leprosy, a very bad disease. Naaman was a very important officer of the king of Syria. When he asked to be cured of his disease the prophet Elisha told him to go and bathe seven times in the river Jordan and he would be healed.

This was such a simple thing to do that Naaman felt angry and did not wish to obey. He said he could have bathed in the rivers of his own country and saved the long journey he had made. But his servants persuaded him to do as the prophet had told him. He then went and washed himself seven times in Jordan and was healed. Then he returned to Elisha and offered him presents, but Elisha refused to take them.

Many other great things were done by this prophet. His life shows what wonderful things can be performed by the power of the Lord. To do such mighty works as Elisha did one must have faith in the Lord, and must keep His commandments.

STORY OF THE PROPHET JONAH.

JONAH was a prophet of Israel who lived a short time after Elijah. What the Bible tells about him is an account of how the Lord punished him in a very strange way for his disobedience.

The Lord told Jonah to go to a great city called Nineveh, and call upon the people to repent. The people had become wicked, and the Lord intended to destroy the city unless they turned away from their sins.

Jonah did not want to go as the Lord desired him ; and to try and escape from the Lord he went to a town called Joppa, on the sea shore. There he found a ship which was going to a place called Tarshish. Jonah paid his fare and got on board this ship, intending to go to Tarshish. But he soon learned it was no use trying to flee from the Lord.

After the ship had started on the voyage the Lord caused a great wind to blow, and the sailors were afraid they would be wrecked. They threw out some of their goods to lighten the ship so that it would not sink, but it still seemed to be in great danger. When the wind came Jonah was asleep in the vessel, but the ship master woke him up and told him to pray to his God to save them, as the others on board were praying to their gods.

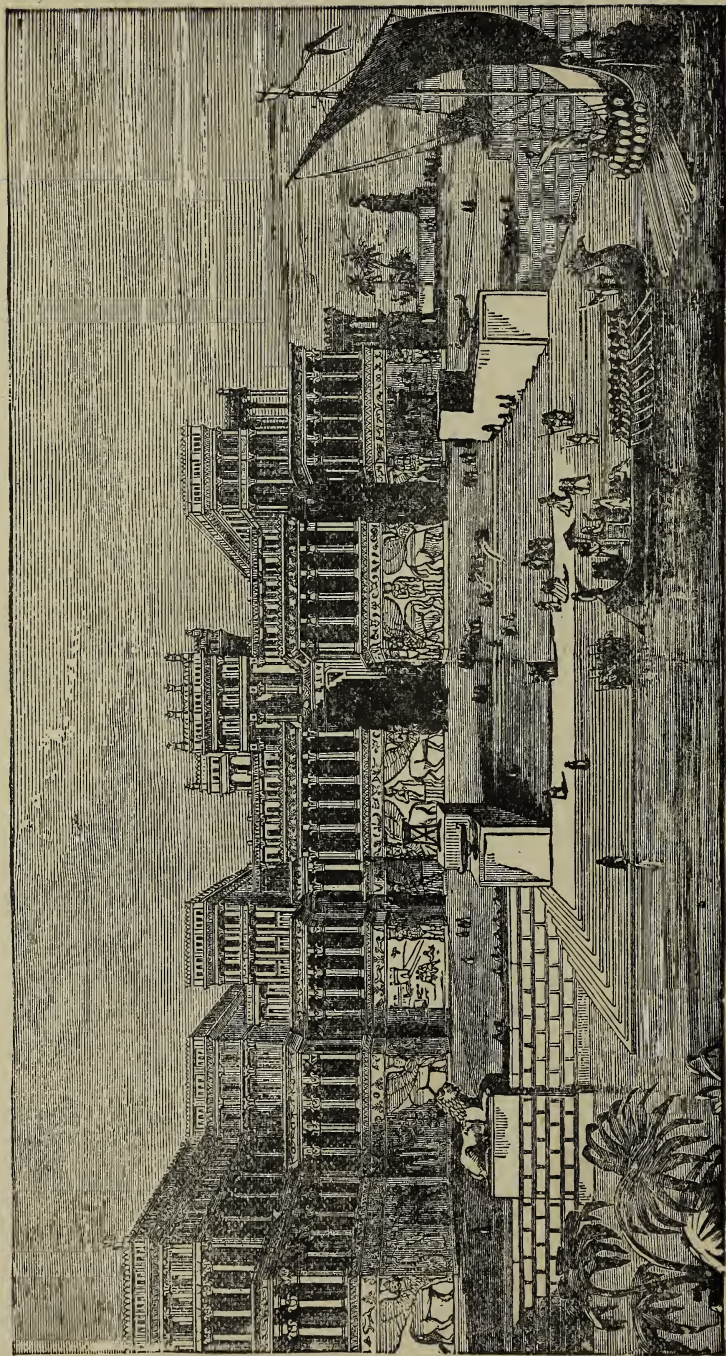
The people in the ship next decided to cast lots to see who was the cause of the evil. They cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. Then they asked him where he was from and what his occupation was. Jonah told them he was a Hebrew, and that he worshiped the Lord of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land. He also told them he was trying to flee from the Lord. They asked him why he did this and what



JONAH THROWN INTO THE SEA.

they should do to save the ship. Jonah told them to throw him into the sea and it would be calm.

They did not like to do this at first, and tried to get to shore



VIEW IN NINEVEH, THE CITY TO WHICH JONAH WAS SENT.

by rowing hard. But they could not succeed, so they took Jonah and threw him overboard. The sea then became calm, and those on board praised the Lord for His mercy.

But what became of Jonah? He was not drowned, as you might suppose. The Lord prepared a great fish to swallow him, and he lived in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

This was a strange way to teach Jonah a lesson in obedience, but it caused him to repent and pray to the Lord for mercy. He was now willing to obey the Lord's commands.

At the end of the three days and nights the Lord caused the great fish to vomit or throw Jonah out through its mouth on the dry land.

Again the Lord told Jonah to go and preach to the people of Nineveh, and warn them that their city would be destroyed unless they repented. Jonah obeyed this time, and after entering the city he told the people that after forty days the place would be destroyed if they did not turn from their sins.

It happened that the people did repent of their sins and the Lord spared them. This made Jonah very angry, and he complained to the Lord. Perhaps he expected and wished the people to be destroyed, as they were enemies to the people of Israel, and some years after this they took Israel captives to their lands, from which they never returned. The reason Jonah disobeyed the Lord at first was no doubt because he feared the people of Nineveh would make war with his people if the Lord did not destroy them. The Lord reproved Jonah for being dissatisfied, and showed to him that it was wrong to complain.

The story of Jonah teaches a lesson which should benefit us. It shows that it is no use to try and hide from the Lord; and that it is better to do what He wishes us without waiting to be told the second time.



THE ISRAELITES TAKEN CAPTIVE.



ANCIENT KITCHEN.

STORY OF JEREMIAH.

MANY years after the time of Elijah and Elisha there was a certain prophet among the people of Judah, or the Jews, as they were also called. This prophet's name was Jeremiah. His home was in a little town near by Jerusalem, the capital or chief city of the Jews.

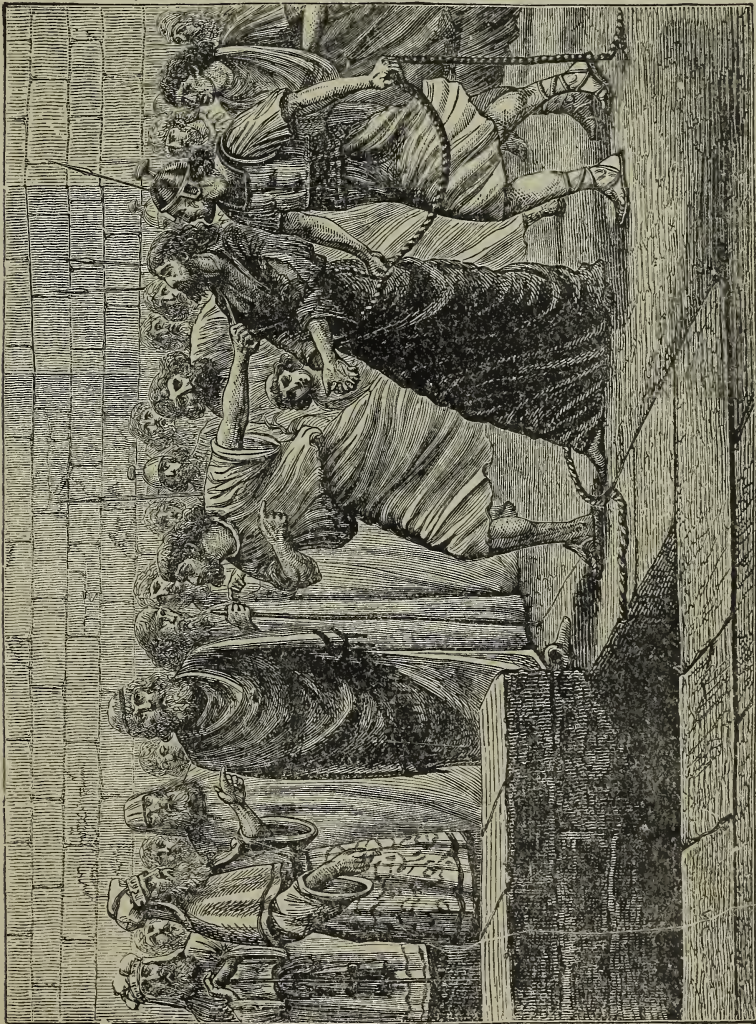
The Lord called Jeremiah to be a prophet when he was very young. The Jews had become wicked, and Jeremiah was told by the Lord to warn them to repent or turn away from their sins. He was also told to prophesy to the people. That is to tell them what would happen to them, if they did not repent.

For many years this prophet continued to warn the people of Judah of what should take place. He told them that their city would be taken by the king of Babylon. This king would kill many of the people. Others he would take to the city of Babylon to be servants. He also told them that their city would be destroyed with fire by this great king of Babylon.

The words of Jeremiah were soon fulfilled. At one time many of the people were taken to Babylon as captives or servants. Even when this happened the people did not believe Jeremiah. They did not like him, because he told them of their sins, and of the evil that should happen to them.

Some of the Jews wanted to put Jeremiah to death. They had him imprisoned for many years, but he still prophesied of the destruction of Jerusalem. Once they became angry with him and had him thrown into what they called a dungeon. It was a dark, deep cellar inside the prison house. The bottom of this dark cellar was covered with mud. In this mud the

prisoners would sink up to their necks. Jeremiah was put in this place to die. No food was given him while he was in this pit or cellar.



JEREMIAH CAST INTO THE DUNGEON.

But a kind man went to the king and begged of him to have Jeremiah taken out of this place. The king's name was Zedekiah. He was not a good man ; but he permitted Jere-

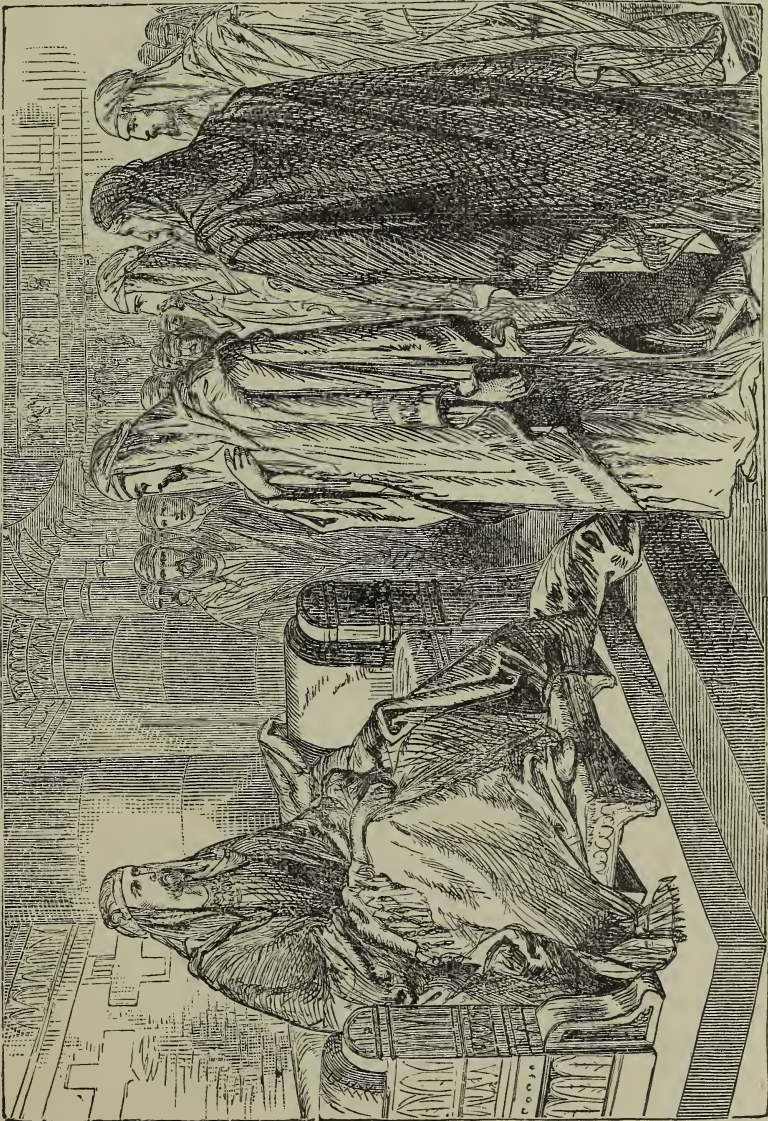
miah to be taken from the filthy pit and put in the prison yard.

The prophet had told the king before this happened that the king of Babylon would take possession of his city, and that he, King Zedekiah, would be carried to Babylon. After



JEREMIAH TELLING THE WORD OF GOD UNTO ZEDEKIAH.

Jeremiah was taken from the dark dungeon King Zedekiah sent for him and asked him if he had any word from the Lord for him. Jeremiah only told him what he said before.



ZEDEKIAH JUDGED BEFORE THE KING OF BABYLON.

If he had told a lie, and said that Jerusalem would not be destroyed, the king would have been pleased, and perhaps he would have let him out of the prison. But Jeremiah was a truthful man. He obeyed the Lord, and dared to tell the truth if it cost his life.

All that Jeremiah had prophesied of soon came to pass. The king of Babylon came and captured the city. He burned the temple and the houses in the city. He killed many of the people, and took others as servants or slaves. King Zedekiah's sons were killed before his face, and he had his eyes put out and was taken to Babylon, where he was kept a prisoner until he died.

This shows what an awful thing it is to disobey the Lord. King Zedekiah was a disobedient man. He asked the prophet what the Lord wanted him to do, but refused to obey Him. And so you see what became of him.

When the King of Babylon took the Jews as prisoners to Babylon, he was kind to the prophet Jeremiah. He let him free from the prison, and told him he could either go to Babylon or stay in his own country with the few people who were left to till the ground and take care of the grape vines. Jeremiah chose to stay with the people who remained.

Soon the people who were left in Jerusalem rebelled and killed the governor of the place, and then fled to Egypt. They compelled Jeremiah to go with them to Egypt. Nothing more is told about this prophet in the Bible.

From what is said about him we can see that he was a brave and fearless man. Those who do right are always brave. When they obey the Lord, they know He is able to take care of them. The Lord always does watch over those who serve Him.

Jeremiah lived at the same time as Lehi, who was led by the Lord from Jerusalem to America, and whom the Book of Mormon tells about.



ANCIENT WAY OF PLOWING.

STORY OF DANIEL.

IN the story of Elijah it was stated that the Hebrews were divided into two nations. One was called Israel and the other Judah. And in the story of Jonah it was said that the people called Israel were taken captive by the people



DANIEL AND HIS COMPANIONS AT MEAL.

of Nineveh, or the Assyrians, as they were called. A little more than a hundred years later the people of Judah were captured by the king of Babylon. This was when Jeremiah lived, the prophet spoken of in the last chapter. Many of them were killed by the king's army, and those who were not killed were taken as prisoners to the great city of Babylon.

Daniel was a prince of Judah. He was taken, when quite a young man, to Babylon. Many other young men were also taken there as captives by the king of Babylon.

The king intended that these young men should be brought up in his palace, and that they should be given a certain kind of food to eat and have wine to drink. The king's object in doing this was that they might, as he thought, become better looking. Then at the end of three years they were to be brought before him that he might see which were the most healthy and finest looking.

But Daniel did not wish to be fed with what the king said they should have. So he asked that he and his three friends might be tried, by being fed ten days with pulse and have water to drink. Pulse is the name of such things as peas and beans. Daniel's food was probably a kind of soup made of peas, beans or some other kind of seeds.

Daniel and his friends were given the kind of food they wished, and at the end of the ten days' trial their appearance was better than that of the young men who had been fed as the king directed. After this they were given nothing but pulse and water to eat and drink.

When the three years were ended these young men were examined before the king, Nebuchadnezzar. He found that Daniel and his three friends, whose names were Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, were the wisest of them all.

The king of Babylon was greatly troubled with dreams which he had, and he sent for the wise men and magicians to make known to him one of his dreams; but none were able

to do so. The king then ordered to have them all put to death.

When Daniel learned of the king's order, he asked the officer who was to kill the wise men to wait, and he would tell the dream and its meaning also. The Lord made the dream known to Daniel in a vision, and when he was brought before the king he told him the dream and its meaning.

The king was pleased with Daniel for telling his dream and made him ruler of Babylon.

After the death of Nebuchadnezzar, his son, Belshazzar, was king in his place. At one time he made a great feast or supper and invited a thousand of his noblemen to it. During the feast he had some gold and silver vessels which his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, brought out to drink wine from.

While they were feasting and drinking, the king saw a hand writing upon the wall of his palace. The sight made him fear and tremble. He sent for the magicians and wise men to read the writing, but they were unable to tell its meaning.

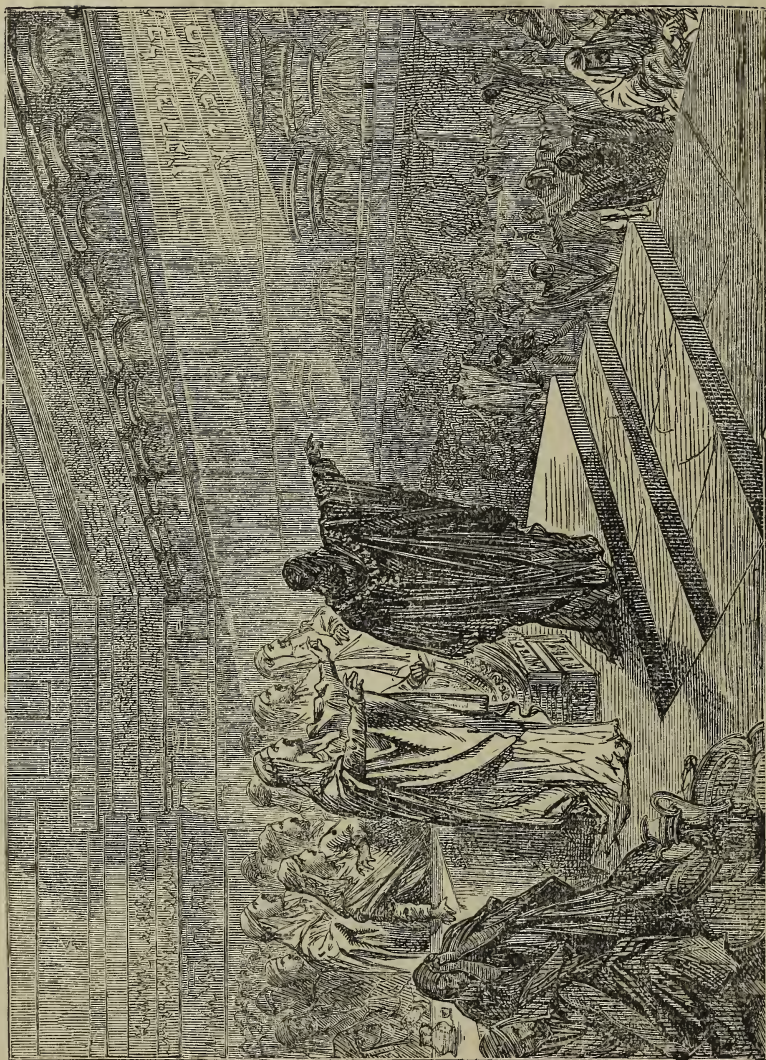
It being known that Daniel had explained the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar, he was sent for. The king promised to make him third ruler in the kingdom if he would read the writing on the wall. After telling him of his pride and his wickedness, Daniel explained to him the writing which he saw. The meaning of it was that his kingdom was at an end; that it was divided and given to the peoples called Medes and Persians.

That night Belshazzar was slain, and Darius, the Mede, took the kingdom.

On the taking of Babylon by the Medes, Darius was made king. To govern the kingdom he chose one hundred and twenty princes; then over these he placed three presidents.



DANIEL TELLING NEBUCHADNEZZAR HIS DREAM.



THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

The Prophet Daniel was selected to be the chief of the presidents.

The princes and the other presidents envied Daniel because he was so greatly favored, and they tried to find some fault

with him that they might have him removed. No fault could be found in him, so they laid plans to entrap him.

He was known to pray to the Lord three times a day, so they persuaded the king to sign a decree that whoever should pray to anyone besides the king for thirty days, be cast into a den of lions.

But Daniel paid no attention to this decree. He chose to serve God no matter what men might do or say. He contin-



DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN.

ued to pray as usual. Then it was told the king that Daniel did not obey the decree. The king was now displeased with himself for signing the decree when he heard this, and he desired to deliver or protect Daniel, whom he loved and honored.

It was their rule to never change a law that was made, and Daniel was thrown into the den of lions. The king had faith that Daniel would be saved, and early in the morning he went

to the den and called him. He was very glad when he learned that he was not harmed.

The king then ordered that he be taken out, and that those who accused Daniel, with their whole families, be cast into the den. This was done, and the lions killed them even before they reached the bottom of the den or pit.

After this the king wrote to all peoples in his kingdom commanding that they should worship the true and living God.

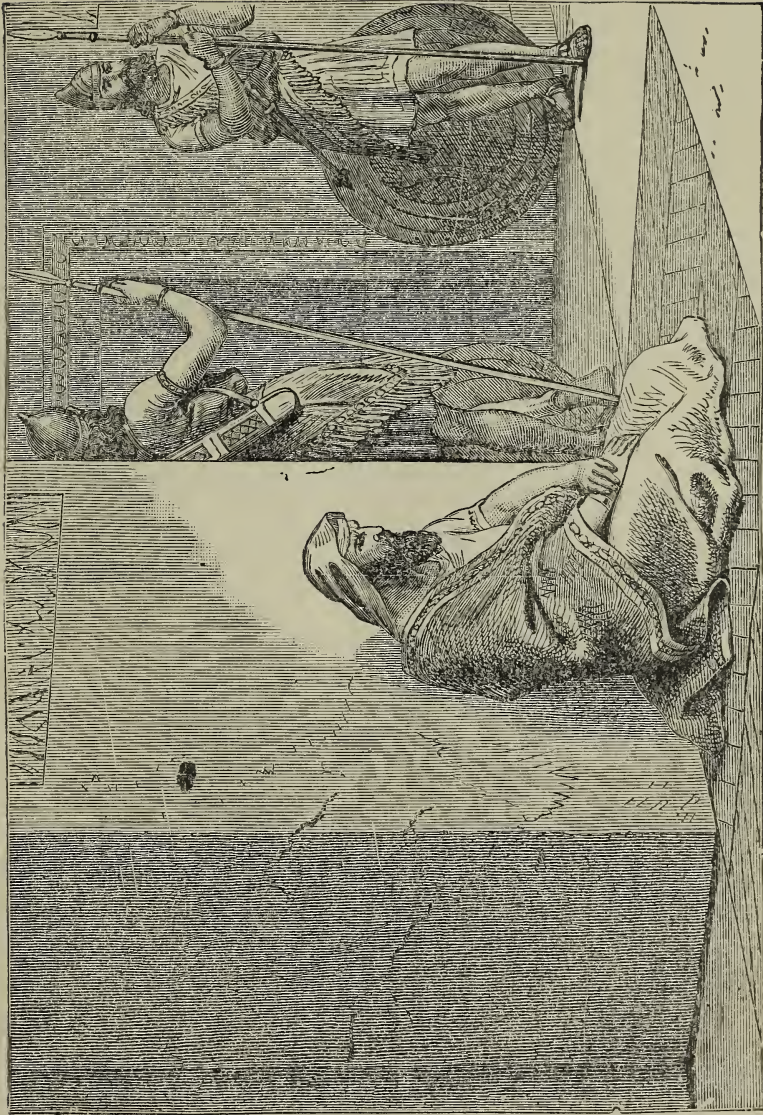
STORY OF QUEEN ESTHER.

THE story of Queen Esther shows beautifully how the Lord cares for His people, and how He protects them from their enemies when they are humble and pray to Him.

When Daniel became old some of the Jews who were taken captive into Babylon returned to Jerusalem. Many of them, though, were scattered through Babylon and other countries, and did not return to their old home.

Soon after this time these countries were ruled by a king named Ahasuerus. This king once made a great feast. At the feast, his wife, the queen, offended him by disobeying his command. The king then made a decree ordering all the young women in the surrounding countries who were fair, or good looking, to be brought to his palace. At a certain time the king was to select from these young women one who should be queen in place of the woman who had displeased him.

There was a man who lived in the king's palace named Mordecai. He was a Jew. He had a cousin, a young woman by the name of Esther, whom he had raised, as her father and mother were both dead.



MORDECAI AT THE GATE OF THE KING'S PALACE.

When the king sent for all the beautiful young women to be brought to his palace, Mordecai presented his cousin Esther to be placed with the others from whom the king intended to select a queen. When the time came for these young

women to be presented to the king, Esther, among the others, appeared before him. The king was pleased with Esther more than with any other of the young women, and so she was made queen. The king then placed on her head a crown and made a feast in her honor.

After this happened a man named Haman was made a high officer or ruler in the king's service. Because of his important position the king's servants bowed to Haman ; but Mordecai, who was also a servant of the king, refused to bow to Haman. This made Haman angry with Mordecai and also with all the Jews that lived in the country. He then wanted to kill Mordecai, and he made plans to accomplish his desire. He got the king to make a decree that his people on a certain day should kill all the Jews among them ; and this decree was sent all through the country.

The Jews were sorrowful when they heard of this, and Mordecai sent word to Queen Esther, asking her to speak to the king and persuade him to save the lives of her people, the Jews.

Esther told Mordecai that the king had not called her to come into his presence for the past thirty days. For this reason she feared she would have no chance to speak to the king.

No one was allowed to go to the king or speak to him without his consent. If any person dared to do this he would be put to death.

But Esther promised that if the Jews would fast for her three days, she and her maidens would fast also, and at the end of that time she would go to the king, trusting in the Lord for her life. She had faith that the Lord would preserve her life and she would get what she desired by fasting and praying.

The Jews did as she requested, and on the third day Esther put on her royal apparel, or clothing, and stood in the inner

court of the king's house. The king was seated on his throne. When he saw Esther he held out to her his golden scepter, or staff, which was a sign that he was willing for her to speak to him. So she came near by and touched the golden scepter, as was the custom.

The king asked her what she wanted, and said he would give her anything she desired, even half of his kingdom.

Esther did not tell just then what she wished, but invited the king and his minister, Haman, to a feast she had prepared.

At the feast the king again inquired what she would have, and she asked him and Haman to attend another feast the next day, when she would tell what she wanted.

Haman felt highly honored to be invited by the queen to dine with the king and her, and he told his wife and friends of his great favors. But with all this, he said, he was not happy, because Mordecai, whom he hated, was sitting at the king's gate and would not bow to him nor honor him.

Haman's wife then told her husband to have a gallows made on which to hang Mordecai, and speak to the king and get his consent to have the man hung. This pleased Haman, and he decided to do as his wife suggested.

That same night it happened that the king could not sleep, so he had the records or history of his kingdom brought to him to read.

In this book he read an account of how Mordecai, Queen Esther's cousin, once saved his life by telling of a plot or plan which was laid to kill the king. The king then asked his servants if Mordecai had been rewarded for what he had done. They answered that he had not. So the king decided he would do something for Mordecai.

Pretty soon Haman came to the king's court and the king

told him to come in. Haman had come to get permission to hang Mordecai.

The king was thinking how he could reward Mordecai for saving his life, so the first thing he asked Haman was, "What



MORDECAI RIDING THROUGH THE CITY.

shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor?" Haman thought himself the man the king was speaking of. He had no idea Mordecai was the one the king wished to honor. So Haman told the king to instruct one of his most noble princes to place the king's royal apparel on the man he wished to honor and to place a crown on his head. Then he was to be given the king's horse to ride on through the streets. While he was thus riding through the streets it should be proclaimed that this man the king delighted to honor.

This suited the king, so he told Haman to do all he had said for Mordecai, for he was the man. No doubt Haman did not like to do this, for he hated Mordecai, but when the king commanded him he had to obey.

After Mordecai was led on the king's horse through the streets by Haman, he returned to his place at the gate of the king's palace. But Haman went home in shame and told what had happened to him.

Soon he was sent for to attend the feast to which the queen had invited him.

At this second feast, or banquet, the king asked Esther what she wished done, and she told him about the decree that on a certain day the people were to rise up and slay all the Jews in the kingdom. She also accused Haman as the man who had persuaded the king to make the decree.

This made the king angry, and he walked out of the palace into the garden. While he was out Haman begged Esther to have his life spared. Soon the king returned and told his servants to hang Haman on the gallows he had made for Mordecai, and it was done.

The decree that the Jews should be put to death on a certain day could not be changed. It was against the laws of the country to change a decree once made. But the king sent another decree, ordering the Jews to defend themselves on

that day, and to kill those who should try to put them to death.

This order from the king was sent throughout the country, and it caused the people to fear. Many of the people joined the Jews so that they would not be put to death.

When the day came on which the decree was to be carried out, the Jews instead of being slain killed many of their enemies who rose up against them.

Mordecai after this was made a high officer in the king's court, standing next to the king himself.



ANCIENT WAY OF THRASHING.



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